

The Philippines Integrated Water Resources Alliance (IWRA)

PADCO and LCP Technical Interim Report to USAID On the Outcome of the Stakeholders' Meetings in Metro Naga and Metro Iloilo, Next Steps, and Implications for Current USAID Programs and Initiatives

May 30, 2003

Introduction

The IWRA stakeholders convened a workshop in Naga City on May 15-16, 2003 and in Iloilo City on May 19-20, 2003 to raise issues of concern regarding integrated water resource management in the metro areas. Improvement strategies to address the issues were identified by the stakeholders, and approaches on how to carry out these strategies were organized into a Water Resources Action Plan for each metro area. The objectives of the workshops were three-fold:

1. Organize and present available water resources information relevant to the IWRA, including stakeholder survey results and maps, and use this information to create a *Metro Water Workbook* for each city;
2. Document and prioritize water resource issues and problems to address; and
3. Develop and gain consensus on an *Integrated Water Resources Action Plan* that identifies implementation strategies to promote the sustainable use of water resources within the metro areas.

The main outputs of the workshops were the development of an Action Plan and a *Metro Water Workbook* for each city. This report discusses the development of these products, and how they can continue to serve as water resource management tools for the cities. The products generated through the IWRA activities can serve as useful models for helping to guide other Local Government Units (LGUs) in the organization of effective stakeholder alliances to raise issues, develop strategies to address management problems, and move forward with actions to better manage water resources at the local level. This will be particularly useful as the responsibility for water quality management by LGUs under the proposed Clean Water Act continues to grow as this legislation is drafted. The utility of these tools and how they complement the eco-governance goals of related USAID programs is also discussed, along with recommendations for next steps on how to continue the momentum of growing support for the Integrated Water Resources Alliance by LGUs.

The Metro Water Workbooks

The *Workbook* is a compilation of maps, data and current and proposed projects that address water resources within each metro watershed area. The purpose of creating the *Workbook* is to coordinate data across a range of activities to improve the IWRA knowledge base and understanding of the issues, as well as create a tool to enhance decision-making through improved access to information. The contents of the *Workbook* were reviewed by stakeholders during the workshops, and consensus was reached on the content of projects and accuracy of maps and information. Gaps in project information and data on socio-economic, environmental and financial parameters were identified and noted in the Action Plan.

The *Workbook* will continue to be updated as additional maps are created, water data continues to be collected, and projects proceed with development over the next few years. It will thus serve as a dynamic resource that will enable the IWRA to carry out participatory and well-informed dialogue to identify and implement actions to improve water resource management in a

coordinated manner. The Metro Naga and Iloilo Development Councils are committed to compiling and maintaining the *Workbooks* by updating the information through stakeholder participation.

The Metro Water Resources Action Plans

The Action Plan presents issues, improvement strategies to address the issues, and actions identified by the IWRA stakeholders. These issues were first identified in the stakeholder surveys conducted in January and February, and were expanded upon during the stakeholders' workshop. In order to organize the complexity of water-related issues and concerns raised by the IWRA, the improvement strategies and action items are presented as four separate tables along four major themes that summarized the major issues identified by each city through stakeholder surveys and workshop discussions: 1) Drainage and Flood Control; 2) Pollution; 3) Watershed Degradation; and 4) Water Supply. Action items are identified by timeframe, indicating actions to be completed within short (1-2 months), mid (up to 6 months), and long (7 months or more) time periods. Stakeholder survey results as presented at the workshops and Metro Action Plans are provided as supporting documents in the Addendum to this report.

Synthesis of Issues Examined at the Workshops

Common themes in the issue areas of drainage/flood control, pollution control, watershed degradation, and water supply emerged from the two workshops that suggest areas of focus for future USAID support. These themes align with current USAID objectives addressed by related programs and activities, thereby providing opportunities for the outcomes and products of the IWRA to complement on-going USAID initiatives. In order to address the themes, specific policy or regulatory issues will need to be further explored and elevated for improvement at both the local and national government levels:

- **Co-management of watersheds supporting vital water supply sources by local communities and national government entities** – Stakeholders identified the need for watershed protection in areas that support quality sources of water supply. It is vital that upland communities engage in sustainable livelihood activities that will sustain water supplies for present and future populations throughout a watershed basin. The linkages between upper watershed communities and downstream water users can be reinforced through water user fees that support and encourage sustainable livelihood activities engaged in by upland communities. Both Naga and Iloilo City stakeholders attending the IWRA workshops expressed an interest in exploring these options at the USAID watershed workshop to be held in Manila on June 19-20, 2003.
- **LGU responsibility and compliance with the proposed Clean Water Act** – Serious issues of concern were raised by the mayors' offices in each city about the stringent requirements placed on LGUs to comply with specific elements of the Clean Water Act. Both cities expressed a keen desire to have the opportunity to engage in dialogue with Congress and institutional officials at the national level charged with authoring the Act to help shape the development of this piece of legislation into more reasonable approaches to implementation that will effectively protect water resources nationwide.
- **Identification of low-cost wastewater treatment technologies that can be sustained by local management and fee structures or supported through local capital markets** – Both cities identified numerous water pollution problems and issues that can be addressed through improved sanitation and wastewater treatment strategies. City planning officials need assistance in the identification of appropriate technologies that can be managed and financed by the communities. Technical assistance and information technology workshops funded by US-AEP would readily address these issues. The cities also need to be exposed to the opportunities available through the LGUGC, an area that US-AEP can also address.

Both themes of watershed co-management and compliance with the Clean Water Act underscore the need to identify and implement clearly defined avenues of coordination between local and national governing entities.

Next Steps

USAID program effectiveness can be enhanced by addressing the policy, regulatory and technical nature of the themes identified through the IWRA. This will require modest additional effort and resources, given the complementary nature of the IWRA with current USAID programs and goals. Planned next steps for the IWRA project dovetail neatly with current USAID programs, and underscore the present linkages of the IWRA to other related USAID programs:

- **Communication of lessons learned through the IWRA at the USAID watershed workshop, June 19-20, 2003** – Representatives of the IWRA can contribute to the workshop in the following three ways:
 1. *Share the IWRA as a model for other LGUs beginning to address co-management of natural resources* – Representatives of Naga and Iloilo Cities would describe experiences in using the IWRA as a forum through which to raise issues of concern, develop strategies to address the problems, and carry out specific action items of a clearly defined management or action plan.
 2. *Building on the experiences illustrated by both Naga and Iloilo Cities, outline the utility of the IWRA tools to address improved management from an eco-governance perspective.* This includes demonstrations on how to implement activities that improve the flow of information and coordination between local and national government entities, and the development and maintenance of information compendiums or *Workbooks* to document current projects, data, and trends.
 3. *Summarize the implications for LGUs of the proposed Clean Water Act and highlight areas of concern over compliance identified by Naga and Iloilo Cities.* This would serve as an introduction for further discussion with LGUs at the workshop exploring ways to promote effective stakeholder dialogue and input into the Clean Water Act.

The IWRA proposes to organize the presentation of these ideas into one or more workshop sessions. The sessions would include representatives from Naga and Iloilo and be chaired and moderated by a representative of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP).

- **Report on progress towards achieving the mayors' commitments to improved water resource management identified at the Mayors' Asia Pacific Environment Summit (MAPES).** The experience of the IWRA and its progress toward furthering the Naga and Iloilo City mayors' commitments toward improved water resource management from an integrated perspective should be presented as case studies of lessons learned at the next MAPES meeting scheduled for September, 2003. It is anticipated that other participating mayors can learn from the IWRA's efforts to serve as a forum through which to raise and manage water resource issues from a local government perspective.

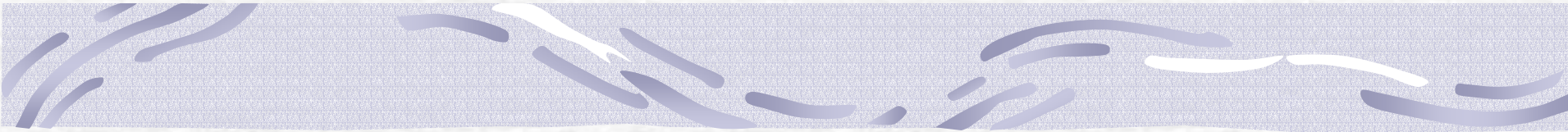
- **Further technical assistance to expand the results achieved by the IWRA and to replicate this model in other watersheds in support of USAID's eco-governance and co-management initiatives.** It is suggested that the Clean Water Act incorporate the idea of the *Workbook* to serve as a tracking and reporting document that each of the cities would prepare and update annually. This gives a practical reason to maintain the information base current and to hold at least annual meetings to discuss progress and problems and update the *Workbook* as a Clean Water Act Reporting Document. Technical Assistance to the League of Cities of the Philippines as the lead agency would be an effective approach to accomplish the task of *Workbook* development and maintenance. Other areas of assistance

would focus on extending to other Metro areas, LGUs, and watershed councils the activity of participatory integrated water resources planning and Action Plan development.

Addendum

The following supporting documents are included as an Addendum to this report:

- A. Presentation of Metro Naga Survey Results of Priority Issues and Improvements Identified by Stakeholders
- B. Presentation of Metro Iloilo Survey Results of Priority Issues and Improvements Identified by Stakeholders
- C. Draft Metro Naga Action Plan
- D. Draft Metro Iloilo Action Plan



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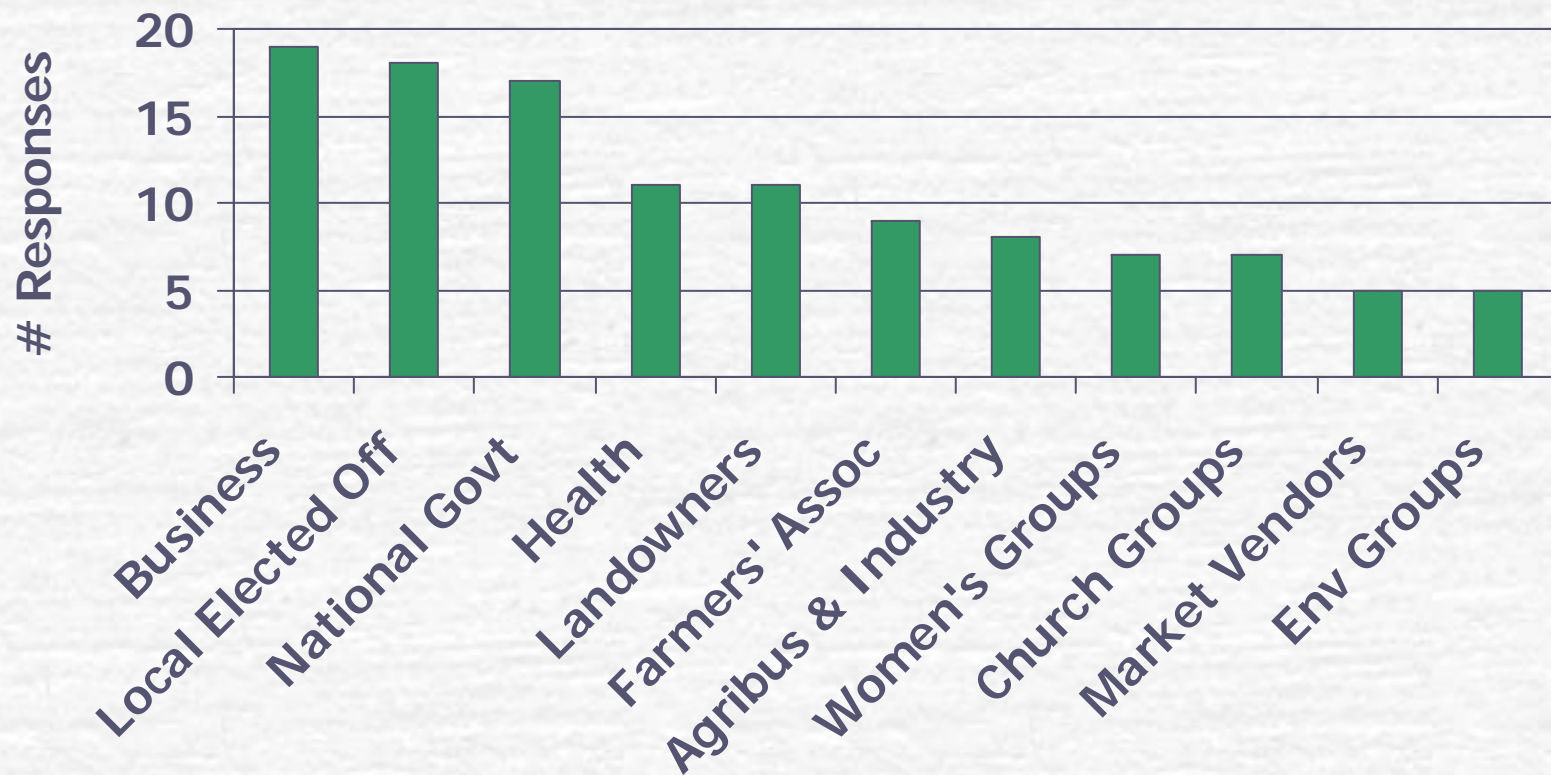
Iloilo City, May 19-20 2003



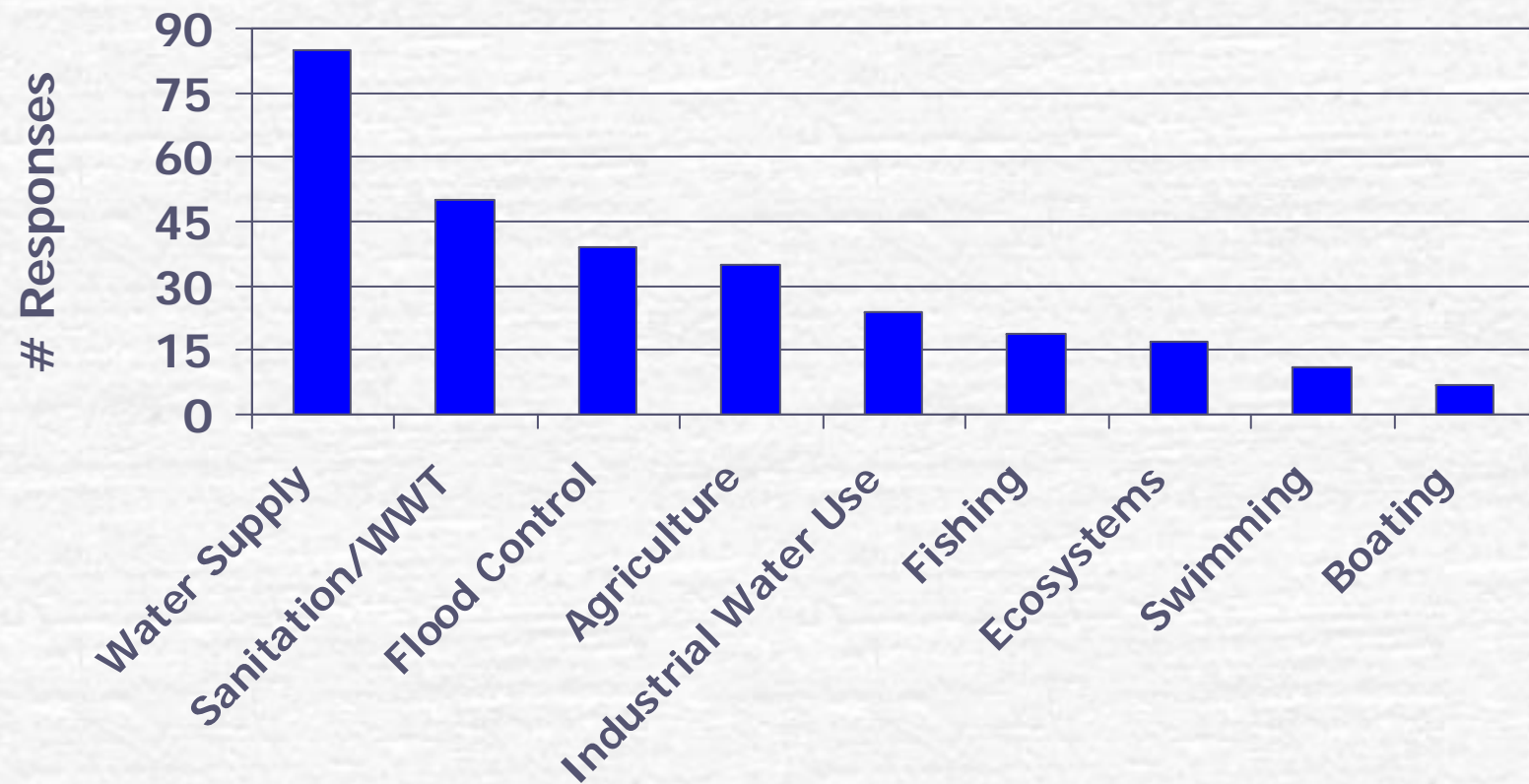


Stakeholder Survey Results

Water Sectors Represented



Water Use Designations



Water-Related Issues

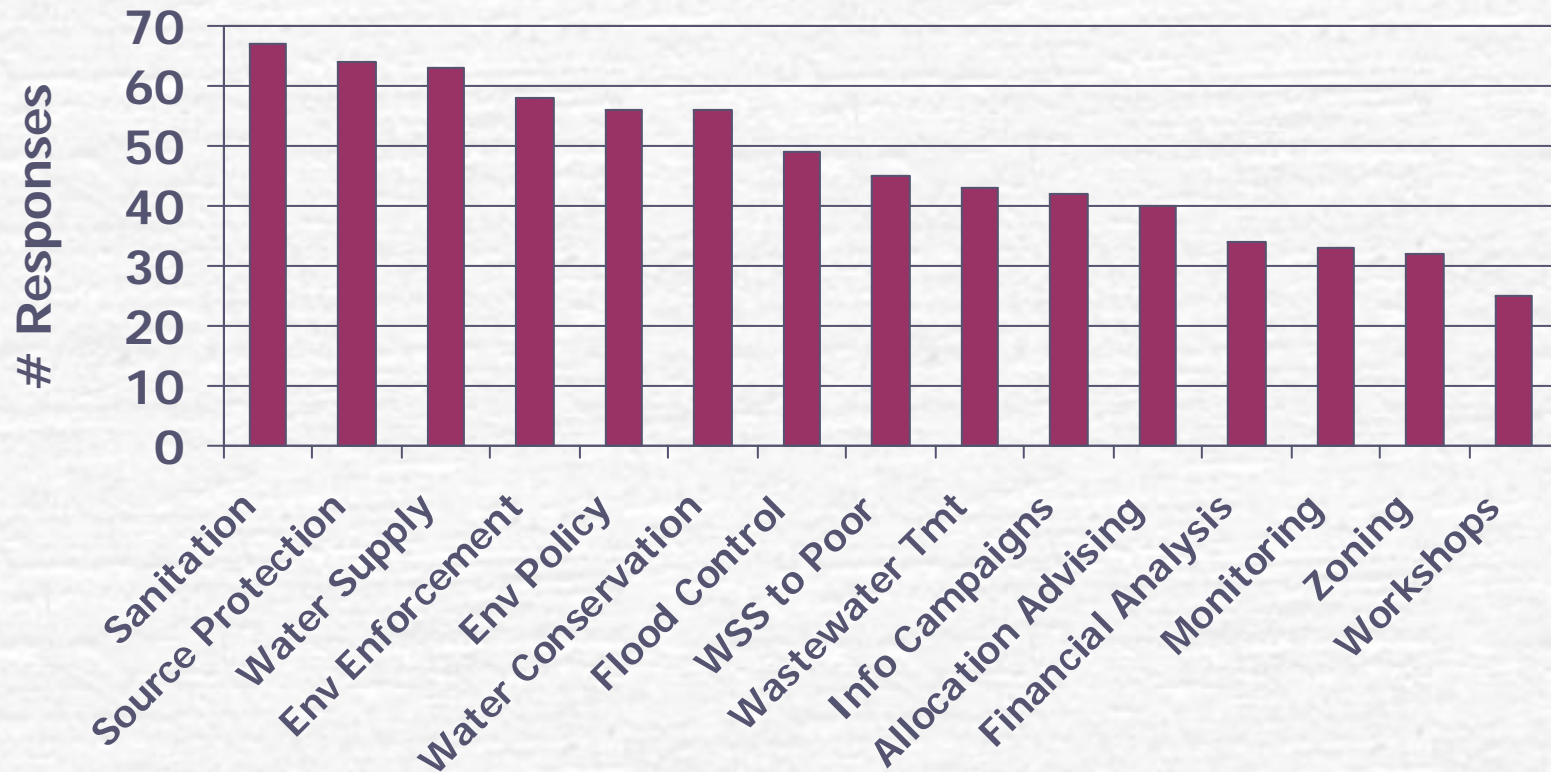
High Priority

- Lack of data/info
- Flooding/drought
- Lack of env policy
- Water scarcity
- Pollution

Priority

- Ecosystem degradation
- Lack of funding
- WSS for the poor
- Water contamination/health
- Water allocation

Watershed Improvements Identified



Organizational Framework

Many watershed improvements and proposed projects can be organized by four main themes:

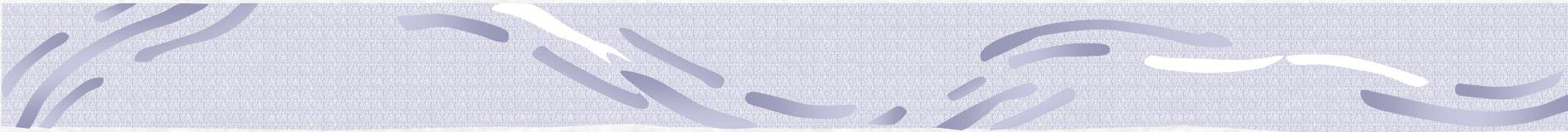
- Floods
- Pollution
- Watershed Degradation
- Water Supply

Organizational Framework

- Other major themes are cross-cutting and impact multiple projects:
 - Lack of data and information
 - Lack of environmental policy/regulation/enforcement
 - Water allocation
 - Management roles



Are any issues missing?



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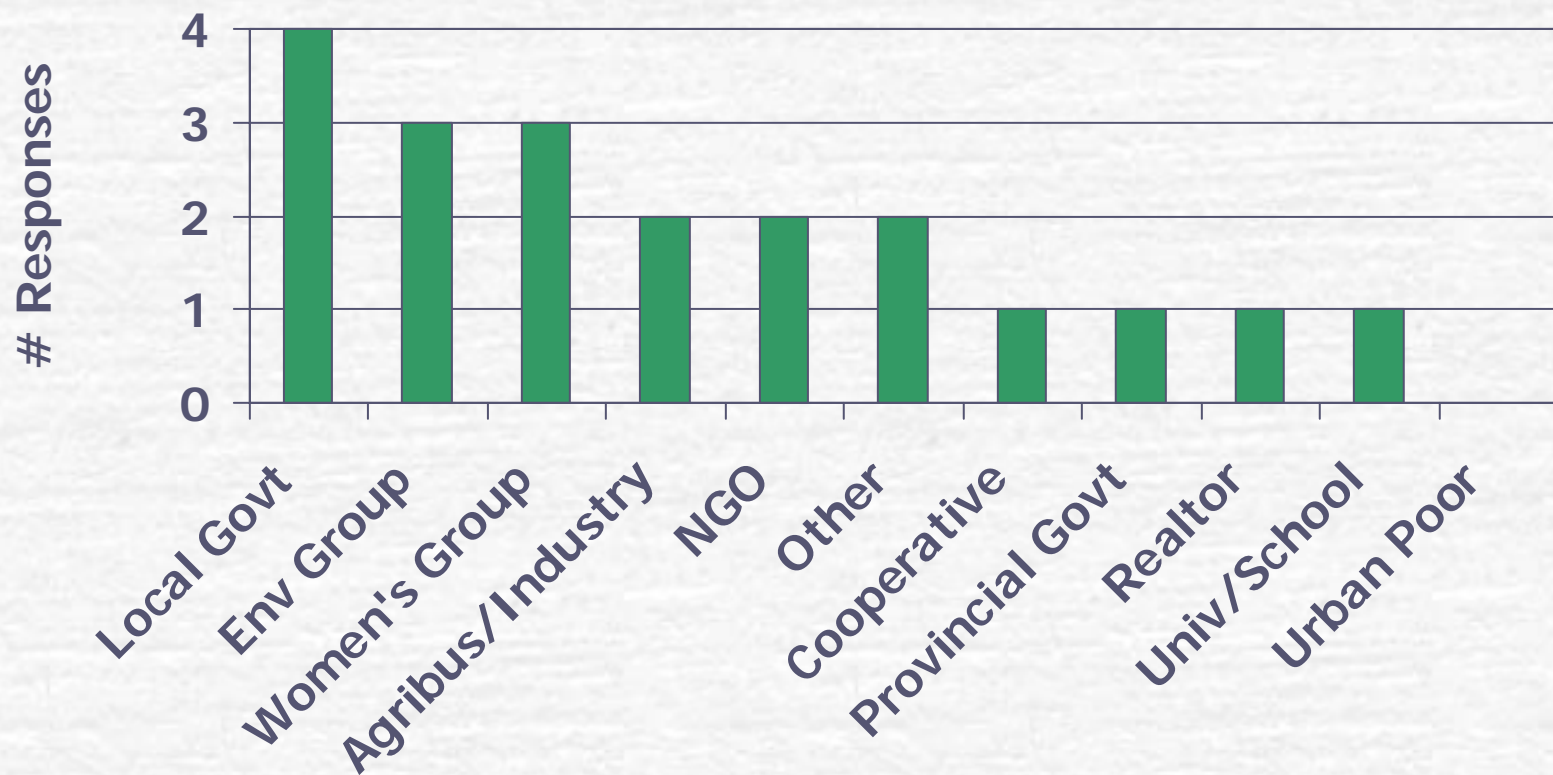
Naga City, May 15-16 2003





Stakeholder Survey Results

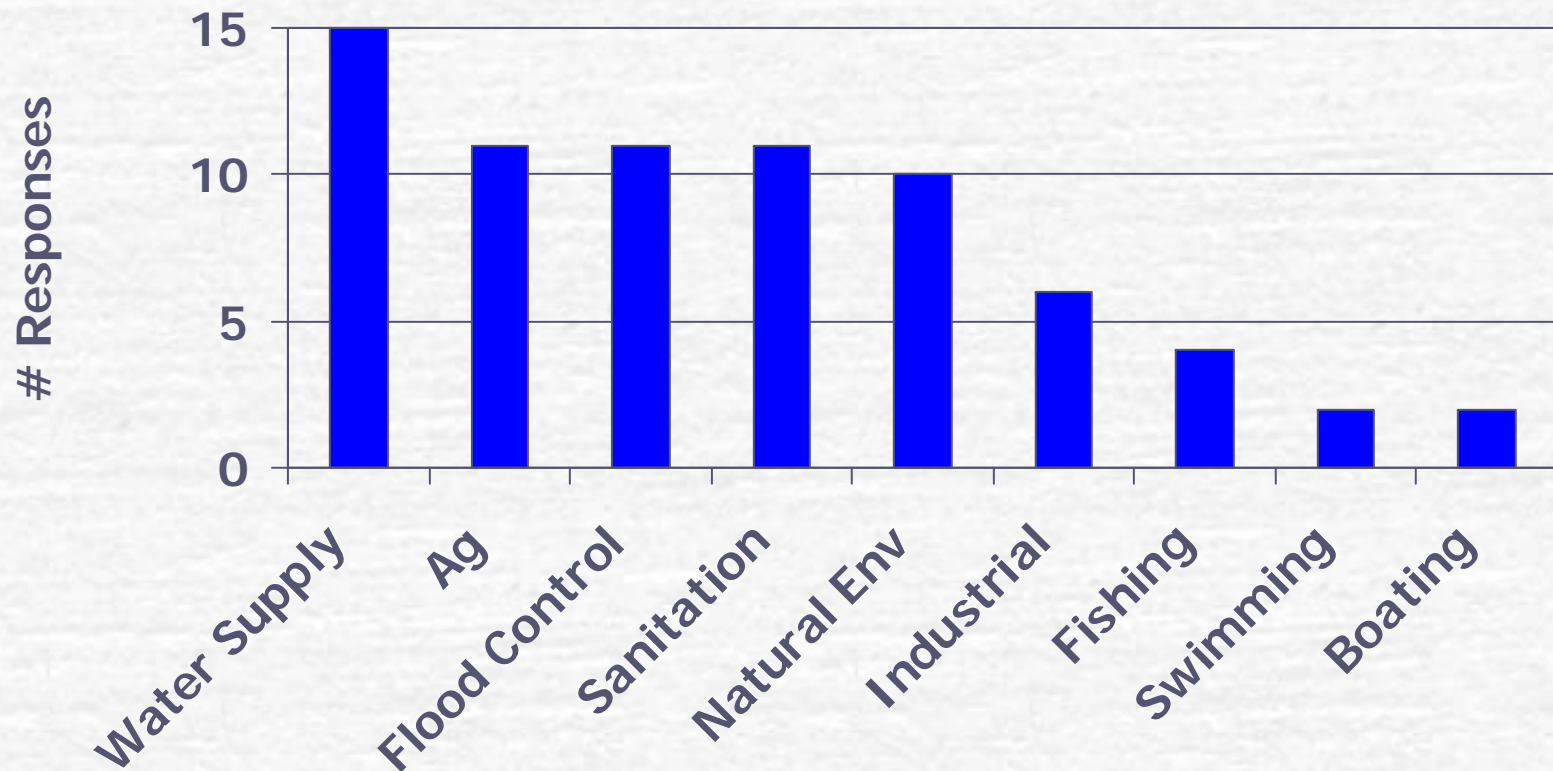
Sectors Represented



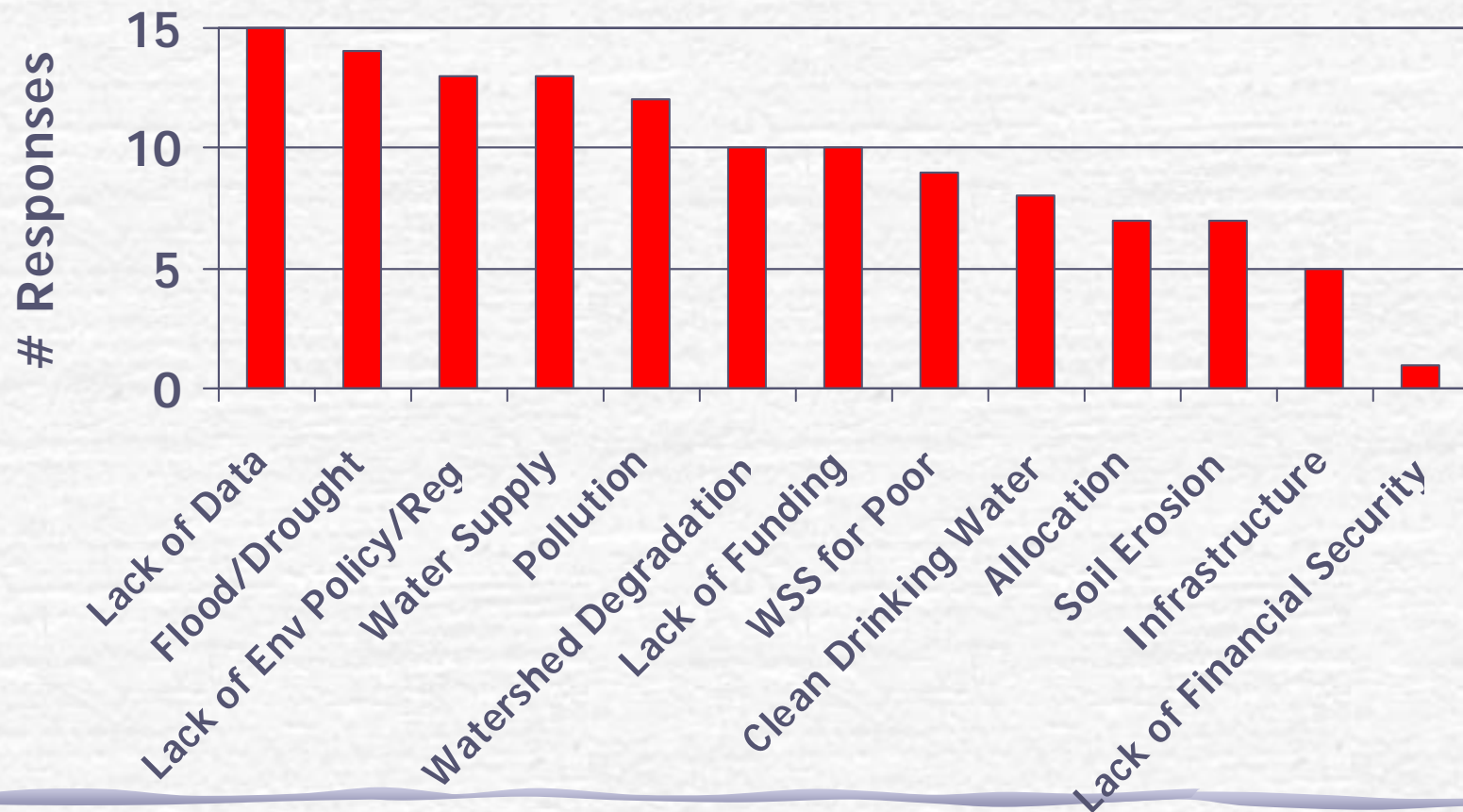


What sectors are missing?

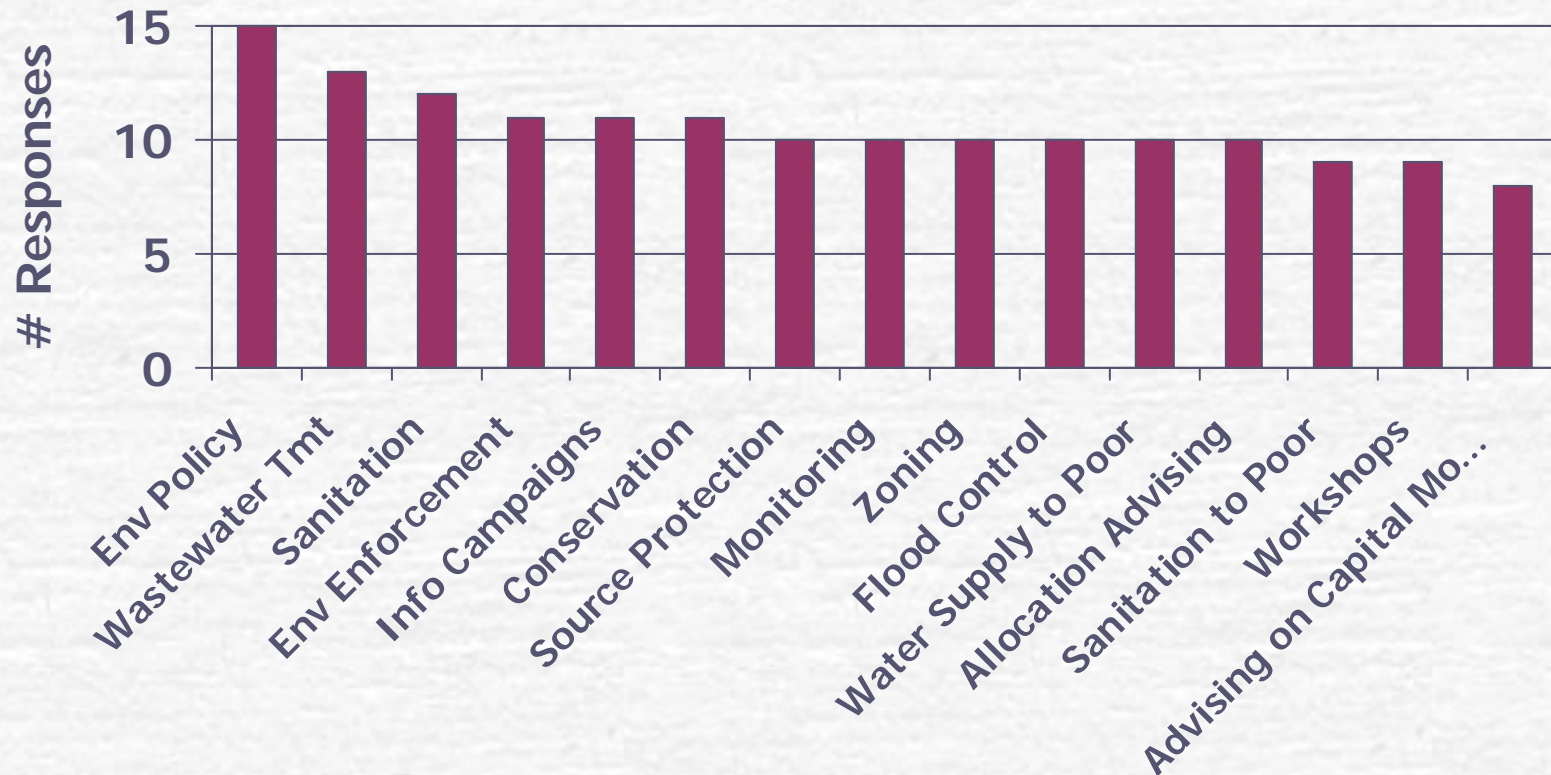
Water Use Designations



Issues and Problems



Watershed Improvements Identified



Organizational Framework

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- Floods
- Pollution
- Watershed Degradation
- Water Supply

Organizational Framework

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